His MAJESTIES Moſt Gracious

LETTER

TO THE

Parliament of Scotland.

Publiſhed by Authority. 27. April. 1603.

WILLIAM R.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

WE have ever ſince Our coming to the Crown of that Our ancient Kingdom, been firmly Reſolved to go to it, and to Hold a Parliament in Perſon, that Hearing in Our own Preſence all that concerns your Happineſs and Proſperity, fully Reaſoned upon. We might be the more able to Judge of the Laws that are fit to be Made, and of the Meaſures to be taken by Us in the Adminiſtration. But hitherto, the Neceſſities of Our Affairs, either of Our Preſence Abroad, during the time of Action, or of Our Preſence in this Kingdom during the Seſſion of Our Parliament here, have hinder'd Us from being amongſt you; However We perſiſt ſtill in the ſame Reſolutions, and will not give over, hoping to find a ſeaſonable Opportunity for purſuing them, ſince We take them to be ſo neceſſary for the full Settlement of that Our ancient Kingdom. But in the mean while, leſt the Affairs of Our People ſhould ſuffer Prejudice by delaying your Meeting any longer, We have thought fit to Call you together, though in Our Abſence from *Britain*, ſuch is Our intire Confidence in your Affection to Us and Our Government, of which We have had ſufficient Proofs in the former Seſſions. We have therefore Nominated and Appointed to be Our Commiſſioner, Our Right Truſty and Right Intirely Beloved Couſin *William* Duke of *Hamilton*, the Preſident of Our Council, whoſe Abilities and Experience in the diſcharge of ſuch a Truſt are well known to you, and of which We have had good reaſon to be ſatisfied, as well as of his Faithfulneſs and Zeal for Our Service, and the good of the Kingdom. Him we have fully Inſtructed in all things that ſeem to Us neceſſary to be done in this Juncture, for the ſupport of the Government, and the ſafety of Our People, Reſerving what is omitted, and which admits of delay, to Our Own Preſence amongſt you. We doubt not but that you will heartily concur with Our Commiſſioner, in the purſuance of his Inſtructions, for ſecuring the Nation againſt the Deſigns of bad Men at Home, and of Enemies from Abroad. And in whatever elſe he ſhall propoſe to you in Our Name, for the common Intereſt of Us and Our People. In order to this, We do in a particular manner, recommend to you, Moderation and Unanimity, that by your Example, as well as by the Authority of Laws, Factions and Animoſities may be Suppreſt. And ſince Church-Matters are in a great meaſure the ſubject of Contention, We doubt not of your Care to find out proper and healing Remedies for the Diſorders that have ſprung from them. We do alſo recommend to you Diſpatch, and that you will imploy the time which you can reaſonably expect to ſit, in doing the things that are moſt neceſſary, and in ſhunning ſuch Matters of Debate as will require the Conſulting of Us, ſince the diſtance We ſhall be at, will not allow time for doing it. Thus not doubting, but that by your Diligence and Calmneſs in your Proceedings, you'll Evidence to the World your Zeal and Union in all that concerns Us and Our Government, and ſo

conclude this a Happy Session. We bid you heartily farewell. Given at our Court at *Kensington*, the three and twentieth day of *March* 1693. And of Our Reign the Fifth Year.

By His Majesties Command,
J. Johnstoun.

Directed thus,
To the Lords Temporal, and the Commissioners of Shires and Burghs, Assembled in Parliament of Our Antient Kingdom of *Scotland.*

The SPEECH of *William* Duke of *Hamilton*, His Majesties High Commissioner, to the Parliament of *Scotland.*

My Lords and Gentlemen,

YOU have heard His Majesties Letter, wherein He expresses a great deal of Goodness for Us, and particularly that He allows your Meeting in Parliament at this time, does show His intire Confidence in your Affection to Him and His Government, now Established in Church and State, which His Majesty has Entrusted me to assure you, He is firmly Resolved to support.

I think I need not Enlarge much to remember you of the Dangers and Fears you were in about a year ago of an Invasion, and the Attempts of Enemies at Home, I am sure there was then none that wished well to this Government, but was sufficiently convinced of the bad Posture we were in for our Defence, and would have been glad of this Opportunity, to have put our selves in a better Condition against the worst Events.

So, my Lords and Gentlemen, Let us in the First Place Return His Majesty our Hearty Thanks for Granting us this Session of Parliament, and let us lay aside all Heats and Animosities, and every thing else that may Obstruct our Answering His Majesties Expectations, whereby you will not only let the World see the Errors of those that were against your Meeting, but also disappoint your Enemies that would render your Endeavours unsuccessful. And since you cannot expect this to be a long Session of Parliament, His Majesty recommending to you Dispatch: Therefore, my Lords and Gentlemen, I beseech you begin with these things that are most necessary for the King's Service, and your own Security, which I Judge to be the giving of Supplies of Mony, and the putting of the Kingdom in a Posture of Defence.

The Chancellor will propose to you the fit Methods of your Proceedings.

The SPEECH of the Earl of *Tweddale*, Lord High Chancellor to the Parliament of *Scotland.*

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE Kings Majesty hath made appear His Care of the Welfare, Happiness, and Security of this Kingdom, by Calling You together, when Himself is so necessarily absent beyond Sea, that you may provide for your own Safety and Prosperity. And hath fully Instructed His Commissioner to Concur with you in whatsoever may Contribute thereto.

I shall therefore in all Humility, and with Submission, put you in mind, That avoiding all Animosities and Misunderstandings, you may apply your Selves with Unanimity and Chearfulness to your Work and Business, which I take to be in the first Place,

To put the Kingdom in a Posture of Defence against Foreign Invasion, and of Security against Intestine Commotion.

Then by making of such good Laws, as may tend both to the Settling of Peace and Unity in the Church, and to the Strengthening the Authority of the Government, and for Recovery and Raising the Trade of the Nation, so much Decayed, even to Ruine almost, and making it to Flourish again.

As to the Concerns of the Church, a sober and quiet Temper of Mind, full of Charity and Humility is necessary.

And for your Safety and Security, a competent Additional Force to what you have, with a suitable Fund to maintain them, and if it shall be thought fit, to set up a Country Militia again, Methods must be thought of for Training of them with less Trouble and Expence than hath been formerly.

And for Recovery of Trade, and Support thereof in Time of War, it will be Worthy of your most Deliberat and Serious Consultations, to fall upon the readiest Means for Effectuating the same, as how some Ships of War of competent Force, to Defend our Coast from Privateers, and to Convoy our Merchant Ships, may be provided now, and more built hereafter, which may not only serve for that use in the time of War, but be employed for Trade in the time of Peace.

If you set about these Things Vigorously and Cordially, His Majesty will put a just Value upon your Actings, as a Grateful Acknowledgement of what He hath done for us, and intitle Return to the Care He hath of us, and by the Blessing of God, this Parliament will prove a healing and happy Parliament.

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